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Detective Loses In Effort to Get James Ray's Rifle

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — The rifle allegedly used by James Earl Ray to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will remain in the hands of Shelby County authorities.

The Tennessee Supreme Court refused yesterday to turn the rifle over to private detective Renfro T. Hays of Memphis who claimed the weapon should be his as payment for investigative services.

Hays had sought possession of the rifle and a 1966 Mustang owned by Ray for services he said he rendered Ray through attorney Arthur J. Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, Ala.

Hanes was one of several attorneys hired by Ray after his capture in 1968. Ray is currently serving a 99-year sentence at Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros, Tenn.